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STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA STATE SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education January 17, 2013 www.sde.idaho.gov Media contact:
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DEPARTMENT SEEKS SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM SPONSORS

BOISE – The Child Nutrition Division of the State Department of Education is seeking sponsors for this year's Summer Food Service Program, which provides free meals for children, ages 1-18, who live in areas in need of economic assistance during school summer vacations.

This program helps fill the gap for families who may not be able to afford to give their children nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session.

The Department contracts with sponsors to feed low-income children during the summer months. Nationally, more than 26 million children eat school lunch daily when school is in session, and about half of them receive their meals free or at a reduced price because they are from families with low household incomes. The summer program offers them nutritious food when school is not in session.

Last year, Idaho's 84 summer food sponsors served approximately 1.38 million meals at 343 sites. For the 2013 program year, sponsors may be:

- Public or private nonprofit schools;
- Public or private nonprofit residential camps;
- Local, municipal, county, tribal, or state governments;
- Public or private nonprofit colleges or universities that participate in the National Youth Sports Program;
- Upward Bound programs;
- Religious Organizations;
- Libraries; or
- Private nonprofit organizations.

All sponsors, new and returning, are required to attend training at a location most convenient for them, and must complete the application process as soon as possible. The 2013 training schedule is:

- Fruitland March 1, 2013
- Coeur d'Alene March 5, 2013
- Lewiston March 6, 2013
- Boise March 7, 2013
- Idaho Falls March 12, 2013
- Pocatello March 13, 2013
- Twin Falls March 14, 2013

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The 2013 training registration information is available online at http://www.databasesdoneright.com/nutrition/. Select the calendar to find the training.

Application information is provided at training and is due to the State Department of Education by **April 26, 2013,** and must be approved by the Department prior to program operation. Applications that are not complete by June 15th cannot be approved.

Meals for the Summer Food Service Program must be served in accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture Non-Discrimination policy.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture Policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Additional information about the Summer Food Service Program is available on our website at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/summerFoods, or from Angela T. Miller, (208) 332-6821 or at ATMiller@sde.idaho.gov.

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